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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

January 22, 2008

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

RE: BRAC Action Plan

Dear County Executive Leggett:

Thank you for your letters to Governor Martin O'Malley dated December 3 and December 20, 2007 in which you expressed certain concerns about the State of Maryland Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Action Plan. As Chairman of his Subcabinet on BRAC, the Governor has asked me to respond on his behalf.

In your letters, you expressed concerns regarding traffic congestion around the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) in Bethesda and the unique circumstances arising from the NNMC's location in an urban environment.

As you know, the Subcabinet on BRAC met with each BRAC-growth jurisdiction to hear the unique challenges for each community. We appreciated hearing the concerns about transportation and quality of life issues raised during our visit to Montgomery County.

Following the 2007 Special Session, Governor O'Malley signed legislation increasing transportation revenues by \$450 million a year. These additional revenues now provide the State the opportunity to make greater investments in our transportation system. Specifically, in our Fiscal Year 2009 budget, the O'Malley/Brown Administration has:

- Proposed \$44.8 million for high-priority intersection upgrades surrounding NNMC;
- Proposed \$100 million for engineering the Purple Line—a project that will improve access to the central business district of Bethesda; and
- Proposed an additional \$5 million for Montgomery County Ride On bus replacements, which will help support transit service in the area.

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE

As Secretary Porcari presented during our BRAC Subcabinet meeting with you and your staff, the State is pursuing a high/low strategy for transportation solutions. This strategy looks at less-costly projects that can be implemented quickly, while continuing to develop the higher-cost projects that take many years to implement.

In addition to the FY09 budget proposals, MDOT has funded a study through the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) of the feasibility of a new entrance to the Metro Station, as well as adjustments to bus service. We are also currently evaluating improvements to key intersections surrounding NNMC including the feasibility of the proposed exit off the Beltway. Given the urbanized setting, we will consider ways to improve transit and pedestrian access. On longer-term projects identified by the County, MDOT will look to the County to prioritize its transportation needs.

Thank you again for your letters. Should you have any additional questions or concerns about the BRAC Action Plan, please feel free to contact me directly. Secretary Porcari would be pleased to answer any transportation-related questions. He may be reached at 410-865-1000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AGB', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Anthony G. Brown

AGB/clj

Cc: Michael Enright